

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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MY "PETS" IN WIDE AWAKE LIBRARY

by W. M. Burns

While many collectors of Wide Awake Library can number their collection as hundreds of copies of this fine old Library in rotation, and even one or two collectors can truthfully state that their collection of these run to well over 1000, still I doubt very much if these same collectors can truthfully state that they get the keen enjoyment from their large collections, that I do as a small collector with a collection of Wide Awakes, far, far below the 100 mark.

Why? Simply because I read and enjoy the larger part of my very modest collection of the old timers. The collector, who collects in quantity, could not possibly do this. Therefore he loses out on half the enjoyment of his collection, no matter what kind, or kinds.

Now I will start my little article by stating that my best beloved "pet" in this Library is the first dime novel that I ever read, namely "Frank Reade Jr., and His Air Ship in Asia."

After I started collecting back in 1928, I searched vainly for years for a copy of this novel. And not until a couple of years ago did I locate and obtain a fine copy of it. Needless to say, this copy will never be willingly sold or traded off. As the Wide Awake edition of Frank Reade's were always high favorites of mine I retain such few of these as come my way. I have not more than a dozen of these in all, yet this little handful contain the first three Frank Reade tales that are said to be written by Dr. Harry En-

ton, viz. "Frank Reade and His Steam Man of the Plains," "Frank Reade and His Steam Horse," "Frank Reade and His Steam Team."

Another pet is "Custer's Last Shot; or, The Boy Trailer of the Little Horn." As a youth I never had this tale in the Wide Awake edition, but it is the title of the first Pluck and Luck that I ever read, so for that reason I value the Wide Awake version highly.

Another "pet" is an old time English story titled, "Pantomime Joe." It is Wide Awake Library #7, a long 63 page story of a group of strolling players, or actors, so popular in certain parts of England a couple of generations ago. Joe was a little baby found in the snow one cold winter night by a group of these strolling players, while going from one town to another and was brought up to their profession.

This tale was first published by Brett in weekly penny numbers. Later as two volumes in his Sixpenny novels and also in two volumes in his One Shilling Novels.

When reprinted by Tousey we got it for 5 cents. One of the longest tales of the famous old Wide Awake Library, which so often run very long tales indeed.

Another "pet" is likewise a fine old tale reprinted from the English version. This is Wide Awake Library #13, titled, "The Devil's Diamond; or, The Fortunes of Richard of the Raven's Crest." I know nothing of the early origin of this tale beyond the fact that it appeared in England as a Hogarth House One Shilling Novel.

Another "pet" is Wide Awake Library #6, Captain Marryat's fine tale

"Peter Simple." Another one that I prize a lot is Wide Awake Library #1215, "Black and Blue; or, Nick Wharton on the War Path." I searched for this one for years before I finally obtained a copy. And I am still searching for its companion story, "Prairie Phil; or, The Panther of the Platte." This is Wide Awake Library #428 and I believe the story was reprinted again in one of the higher numbers of Wide Awake Library. Unfortunately I have no catalogue list of Wide Awake above #1200.

Another high favorite is "Meta, the Girl Crusoe; or, The Secret of the Sea." This is Wide Awake #1191.

I care little for the average comic story written around, or about boy characters. Yet there are many written about adult characters for adult readers. Notably the famous "Muldoon" series in both Wide Awake Library and Comic Library. I once had nearly a complete set of all the "Muldoon" tales, but alas, was forced to sell them. I only have one now and it is Wide Awake #784, titled, "Muldoon the Fireman." And I consider it as one of my special "pets."

And here is a gem indeed. Another tale written about adult characters only. It is a 60 page Wide Awake numbered #951 and titled, "Mrs. Browns Boarding House." Aside from several of the "Muldoons" I consider it one of the best comic stories that I ever read. It contains 17 screamingly funny, full page illustrations, one of the few Wide Awakes that were illustrated with full page "cuts." This tale was later included in the special numbers of Wide Awakes that sold for 10 cents each. Another fine one along similar lines is Wide Awake Library #919 titled, "Henpecked."

This is likewise a tale for adult readers, and as its title suggests, it is a story of a henpecked husband. It runs to 31 pages with 8 full page illustrations. This number likewise was published later as #37 of the Wide Awake Special Number Library and sold for 10 cents.

Another that I may, after reading, add to my list of "pets" is #151 and titled, "Red Leary, the Bill Poster; or, The Murder on the Pier." Until such time as I have read it I am unable to say whether or not I will retain it as a "pet."

I have other Wide Awakes as well of course, but none of special interest to me and will, sooner or later, be put on my exchange list.

BUFFALO BILL, MULTI-STORIED BORDER KING A Bibliography of Buffalo Bill Story- paper Serials and Novels

by J. Edward Leithead

The first story written about William F. Cody, pony express rider, soldier, buffalo hunter, U. S. scout and Wild West showman, ran serially in the New York Weekly (Street & Smith), beginning December 23d, 1869. Colonel Edward Zane Carroll Judson (Ned Buntline) was the author, and the title was "Buffalo Bill, the King of Border Men." Despite similarity of title, Log Cabin Library #152, "Buffalo Bill, the Border King," is a different story.

The first and original tale by Buntline also appeared in the People's Library, and as a book with illustrations by the well-known artist, Felix O. C. Darley. J. S. Ogilvie & Co. published "Buffalo Bill, the King of Border Men" in book form in 1881. The same publishers issued "Buffalo Bill and His Adventures in the West," by Ned Buntline, as a cloth-bound book in 1886, and at the same time put out a paper-covered edition.

The success of Buntline's first serial led to the publication of two others in the New York Weekly, "Buffalo Bill's Best Shot" and "Buffalo Bill's Last Victory," which were later reprinted in Street & Smith's Log Cabin Library. Buntline wrote the play, "The Scouts of the Plains," for Cody and Texas Jack. They appeared on the stage in other Western melodramas, and Wild Bill Hickok joined his old plains partners for a short time behind the footlights.

In Log Cabin Library the following stories about Buffalo Bill were published: #103, "Buffalo Bill at Wounded Knee," by Robert Russell, under the pen-name of "W. B. Lawson"; #134, "Buffalo Bill's Best Bower," by St. George Rathborne, under the pen-name, "E. W. Wheeler"; #152, "Buffalo Bill, the Border King," by Robert Russell, under the pen-name "E. W. Wheeler"; #160, "Buffalo Bill's Long

Trail," by St. George Rathborne, under the pen-name "E. W. Wheeler," and the two Buffalo Bill romances by Buntline mentioned above.

Major John M. Burke, press agent for the Wild West show, wrote some of the Beadle "Buffalo Bill" novels in collaboration with Mrs. Cody. In Beadle's Dime Library, Ned Buntline wrote #517 "Buffalo Bill's First Trail." Colonel Prentiss Ingraham started writing Buffalo Bill tales with #92, "Buffalo Bill, the Buckskin King," which was published under a pseudonym he used frequently thereafter, "Major Dangerfield Burr." For this library he penned about 87 "scout and Indian" stories, 69 of which featured Cody, with celebrated frontiersmen like Wild Bill, Texas Jack, White Beaver and Buckskin Sam as his pards of the plains. In 18 of Ingraham's tales, however, these other plainsmen were themselves the headlines. For instance, #131 was "Buckskin Sam, the Texas Trailer," and Major Sam S. Hall was the hero of still another novel, by Ned Buntline, in Log Cabin #119, "Buckskin Sam, the Scalp Taker." Ingraham wrote 6 Wild Bill stories for Beadle's Dime: #168, "Wild Bill, the Pistol Deadshot," which relates Hickok's famous fight with the McCandlas gang, #175, "Wild Bill's Trump Card," #189, "Wild Bill's Gold Trail," #319, "Wild Bill, the Whirlwind of the West," #800, "Wild Bill, the Dead-Center Shot" and #807, "Wild Bill, the Wild West Duelist." Several stories featured Texas Jack, while in others the leading characters were Dr. Frank Powell (White Beaver) and his brothers, and Buck Taylor. Many of these Dime Library tales were originally run serially in Beadle's Weekly, as, for instance #362 "Buffalo Bill's Grip," #394, "White Beaver, the Exile of the Platte," #397, "The Wizard Brothers," and #401, "The One-armed Pard." Hon. Wm. F. Cody is given as the author of the three last named, but the style of writing is Ingraham's.

In Beadle's Half-Dime Library, Colonel Ingraham authored some 26 Buffalo Bill tales, 5 about Pawnee Bill and 3 about Buck Taylor. Captain Frederick Whittaker penned 2 California Joe stories for this library, and Wm. G. Patten, none other than Burt L. Standish of Merriwell fame, con-

tributed 2 Wild Bill tales, these last having been first printed in Beadle's Popular Library.

Beadle's Boy's Library, issued in two sizes, quarto and octavo, contained numerous biographies of famous bordermen and Indian-fighters by Colonel Ingraham — Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill, Texas Jack, California Joe, Buckskin Sam, the three Powell brothers, Captain Jack Crawford, "Pony Bob" Haslam and Dr. William F. Carver, the Champion Shot. Captain Whittaker wrote a biography of General George A. Custer for the series. The large size library reached a total of 121 issues, the small size ran to 319, reprinting most of the original library and adding new biographies, among them being one of Pawnee Bill, #4, "Gordon Lillie, the Boy Interpreter of the Pawnees," by Major H. B. Stoddard. Another small size edition, of 63 or 64 numbers, was printed by M. J. Ivers Co. in 1899. Beadle's Pocket Library #388, "The Pony Express Rider," by Ingraham, is a reprint of Beadle's Boy's Library #1, "Adventures of Buffalo Bill from Boyhood to Manhood," under a different title.

The Saturday Library #35 contained a story entitled, "The Prince of the Platte, or, Buffalo Bill's Long Trail," by Buckskin Sam (Major S. S. Hall). The War Library printed a tale of Wild Bill's Civil War adventures in #140, "Wild Bill, the Union Scout of Missouri," by Major Hall. In the same library was a tale of General Custer, with the background of the Rebellion, #65, "Custer and His Men," by Marline Manly. There was a California Joe story in Log Cabin Library #6, "Captain Kate, the Heroine of Deadwood," by Leander P. Richardson, and one of Calamity Jane in the same library, #130, "The Queen of the Plains," by T. W. Hanshaw. Also, a Texas Jack story by Ned Buntline in #132, "Texas Jack, the White King of the Pawnees," reprinted from the New York Weekly.

The Camp-fire Library published two Wild Bill stories and one about General Custer. Nugget Library #40, "No Slouch. A Romance of Pike's Peak," by Leander P. Richardson was a Wild Bill tale, and #49 was another, "Wild Bill's Last Trail," by Ned Buntline. In Nugget, and New York Five Cent Library which re-

placed the former, there were no less than six Pawnee Bill stories, all by St. George Rathborne, who used the pen-name "H. L. Wheeler" for the three that appeared in Nugget, and "Harry Hart" for the three in New York Five Cent Library.

Munro's Ten Cent Novels #269 was "Old California Joe," by L. C. Carleton, and #350 was "Wild Bill's Trap," by Lewis Vincent. Frank Starr's American Novels #192 was still another "California Joe." American Tales, Beadle publication, issued in #12, "California Joe, or, The Angel of the Wilderness," by Lieutenant Colonel Hazeltine. This is a tale of the famous plainsman's experiences in the battle of the Wilderness during the Civil War.

De Witt's Ten Cent Romances featured Wild Bill in #3, "Wild Bill, the Indian Slayer" and #10, "Wild Bill's First Trail," both by Ned Buntline.

(To be Continued)

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Gone again, home again! You'll need a good strong chain to keep me tied down I guess. I went up to Rockland, Maine again, to the funeral of one of my uncles, Bert Cummings, Aug. 14th, then I made it a vacation, as I stayed 2 weeks, getting home Aug. 29th, all tired out, from so much riding on both trains and busses. Saw Bill Burns three times in the 2 weeks. Stayed with him 2 nights at two different times. Bill and his wife, young Billy Jr. and two daughters Thelma and June Arlington Burns Schidt. Both girls are married. Remember in the early twenties, when Bill named his oldest daughter after June Arlington in the Frank Merriwell stories in the old Tip Top Weeklies.

While in Rockland, I stayed at my Uncle and Aunts place, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Mathews. I thank them and every one else for all the fine things and the swell time I had while there, so I take the pleasure of thanking them through the pages of Roundup.

I also visited Eddie Smart of Augusta, at the place he works, the Kennebec Daily Journal plant. He took me through this place, and showed me the various machines for printing. All very interesting, as I had never been

in to see a large publishing plant before.

Then I went out to see Kenneth Daggett, and after lots of running around on wild goose chases, I managed to find him.

He works at the Bowers Woolen Mills there. I see Ken had some of the large size, old time cigarette pictures of fighters or ball players tacked up on the wall of the room he works in. He should have a few pin ups to go with them, Ha Ha.

Then from there I went up to see Earl Marr at Auburn, and arrived all tucked out, as there is a very steep hill to go up to get there, Phew. Saw Earl's collection of old Post Cards, Match Covers, Old Books and a few novels.

All these fellows were swell to me.

Then I left for Portland, and missed the flyer, "The East Wind," express that leaves Portland, Maine, at 10:15 a.m. and goes through to Washington, D. C., arriving there at 10:05 p.m. at night. That's pretty quick time, I'll say.

I got on and off at Worcester, in going and coming, as I live 9 miles from Worcester, in the south part of Grafton, Fisherville line, between Saundersville and Fisherville.

My niece tells me Mr. and Mrs. James Van Demark of Cohoes, N. Y. were here, very sorry I missed them, but better luck next time.

Ray Caldwell and wife were up here Aug. 7th.

Sam Tanenbaum was here Aug. 6th and 7th and met Ray, Frank Henry, Clyde Wakefield, Dick Whittemore.

Aug. 11th I went down to visit Edward & Tilman Lablanc of Fall River, Mass. with Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wakefield, and we all had a very nice time down there. They have a fine collection.

Just heard that George French bought the John Raulett collection of Beadles Libraries.

Don Learnard, 23 Russell Terrace, Arlington 74, Mass. is on the trail for cloth bound books—Rob Ranger, the Young Ranchman of Lost River, some times titled as The Young Ranchman, and Rob Rangers Cowboy Days. Both by Lieut. Lionel Lounsberry, also Liberty Boys of 76 #90 and 125. Will pay a good rugged price for them, so he says.

S. K. Hunt, has been for years trying to "run down" this fine artist fella Berghaus or Bergaus or Bergas or "Bigosh" as friend French calls him.

From the New York Public Library May 21st 1946.—Dear Mr. Hunt: In reply to your letter of May 6th, an extensive search for information on the artist J. Bergaus, has met with no success. A member of Street & Smith who has been with them for forty years, has neither recollection nor hearsay information about him. The city directories 1899/1900 and 1900/1901 list an Adelbert Berghaus, artist. If there is a mistake in the initial and this is the man you are seeking, please inform us. Sincerely, Paul North Rice, Chief of the Reference Department.

Here's another letter from the N. Y. Public Library.

July 2nd 1946, Dear Mr. Hunt: A further extensive search has been made in answer to your inquiry of June 13th, but still unfortunately with no success. The Manhattan deaths for the years 1901 and 1902 do not list his name. The Frick Art Reference Library gave the name Adelbert Bergas, born 1836, as a possible variant, but have no further information. The name was also searched in the vital records, and in our own Art department, but with no avail. We have covered the various possible sources so completely there seems no further suggestion that we can make. Sincerely, Paul North Rice.

Brother Members—As many of our members have passed on, and so forth, I expect to make up new books for 1947. All members will be dropped from one or two numbers lower, in the new list. If you don't want to lose your present number, drop me a card to that effect, and I'll see that you have the same number.

NOTICE!!!

Wm. M. Gander writes that he developed pleurisy last April, and is still under the doctor's orders to "rest"

but managed to get out No. 27, of Story Paper Collector, and says it may be the last issue for an indefinite period—if there are ever any more. It is the sad truth.

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I will pay \$2.50 for each copy of the colored-cover Frank Reade Weekly Magazines and \$2 for copies of the original colored-covered Jack Wright stories that appeared between 136 and 285 Pluck and Luck.

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Smeltzer's Ad

Boys, it has been a long time since you seen an ad from me, so here goes.

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